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STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY GROUPS ON THE 14TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDONESIAN INVASION OF EAST TIMOR

On the 14th anniversary of the indonesian invasion of East Timor, solidarity groups around the world reaffirm our support for the long suffering people of East Timor in their struggle for self-determination and independence.

The indonesian invasion and war of aggression has brought untold hardship for the East Timorese. 200,000 people have died, out of a population of 650,000. Most of the survivors were uprooted from their villages and now live in strategic villages controlled by the indonesian military.Freedom of movement, freedom of speech and freedom of association do not exist.

Resistance to the illegal occupation is widespread; there is armed resistance in the interior and organised clandestine resistance in the towns under indonesian occupation. Human rights violations continue unabated; people are killed daily for violating rules preventing them from going beyond village boundaries fixed by the indonesian forces of occupation. Journalists who have visited the country recently testify that East Timor is in the grip of fear.

East Timor solidarity groups around the world,

1. Support Bishop Belo, head of the East Timor Catholic church, who has called on the UN Secretary-General to conduct a referendum in East Timor. This is in line with UN General Assembly resolution of November 1982 which requires the Secretary-General to consult with "all the parties concerned" in deciding the political future of East Timor.

2. Call on the UN Secretary-General to respond to Bishop Belo's demand without further delay. The Secretary-General, under whose auspices consultations are taking place between Portugal and Indonesia, should, without further delay, hold consultations with representatives of the people of East Timor and set in motion procedures for a peaceful solution in East Timor by means of negotiation.

3. Condemn the aggreement between Indonesia and Australia, due to be signed on 11 December, on the joint exploitation of seabed resources between East Timor and Australia. This is a violation of international law and an act of aggression against the people of East Timor. The Australian Government should not be allowed to barter another people's liberty in return for a share in the spoils from resources which rightfully belong to the East Timorese people. We call upon the Portuguese Government to seek a ruling on the illegality of this agreement from the International Court of Justice.

4. Welcome the efforts of the Portuguese Government to safeguard East Timor's right to self-determination. We call on our governments to exert pressure on Indonesia to end its illegal occupation and withdraw its trops from East Timor and urge the

Portugal Government to convene an international conference of parliamentarians to mobilise support for East Timor.

5. Call on the UN Commission for Human Rights to take action at its session in February 1990 to halt the continued violation of human rights in East Timor.

7 December 1989

This document was signed by the following solidarity groups:

Australian Coalition for East Timor - Australia
East Timor Alert Network - Canada
Nova Scotia East Timor Group - Canada
Rights On! - Canada
International World Group for Indigenous Affairs - Denmark
Association de Solidarité avec Timor Oriental - France
Catholic Institute for International Relations - Great Britain
Tapol-The Indonesian Human Rights Campaign - Great Britain
Dutch Indonesian Committee - Holland
X Minus Y - Holland
Free East Timor Coalition - Japan
Comissão para os Direitos do Povo Maubere - Portugal
A Paz É Possível em Timor-Leste - Portugal
Paz e Justiça para Timor-Leste - Portugal
East Timor Committee - Sweden
West Papua Solidarity Group - Sweden
Association for Endagered People - West Germany
Indonesian Movement for Human Rights and Democracy
International Christian Movement for Peace